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## Noh *Kiyotsune*

The cover photograph shows a scene from a Noh play (classical Japanese performing art) titled *Kiyotsune*.

After a defeat in a battle, the Heike Lieutenant-General Kiyotsune took his own life by jumping into the sea. Awazu no Saburo, Kiyotsune's retainer, sent the news to Kiyotsune's wife who had been longing to meet Kiyotsune in the capital, and handed her a bundle of Kiyotsune's hairs as a keepsake. With a deep grief and desperation, Kiyotsune's wife relinquished the hairs to a shrine. In her increased longings to meet Kiyotsune, the wife had Kiyotsune showed up in her dream. She blamed Kiyotsune for not coming back home, while Kiyotsune blamed her for giving his hairs to the shrine. Kiyotsune explained his wife his agonies over his non-ending battles and the ruins of the Heike, and told her that he had been suffering in the purgatory dimension after death. It was a prayer to Amida Buddha that finally saved Kiyotsune's spirit, and gave him the peace he hoped.

This story shows an intriguing contrast between the wife's logical expectation of her husband's safe return, and the husband's sensible decision to sacrifice his own life to gain a peace of mind. The bundle of hairs that Kiyotsune sent his wife had a symbolic value, but the wife's rejection to keeping it reflects the nature of *logic and sensibility*, that sometimes represent different beings.

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